



HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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CLASS 1

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1991

January-February 2014



President's Message

By Mike Reyes

Being elected as the 2014 Huntington Beach CERT president is truly an honor. I intend to uphold the procession of high quality and professional leadership set forth by my

predecessors.

To start off, I'd like to thank outgoing president, Peter Petrelis, for three years of outstanding leadership service. With Peter's direction, H.B. CERT continued to efficiently reach out to the community with CERT's disaster preparedness message. Also, big thanks to last year's executive board members, CERT's team leaders and outgoing secretary, Virginia Petrelis, for a job well done.

To our newly elected H.B. CERT officers, First Vice President Mike Depin, Second Vice President Paul LaGreek, DSW Manager Anna Pinter, Treasurer Susan McClaran and Secretary Heidi Ross, I look forward to working with each of you as we pursue the duties of our appointments.



2014 HB CERT OFFICERS

To kick off January, 2014, several CERT members joined Stephanie Deagle as she presented a disaster preparedness meeting to her neighborhood. CERT guest speakers included myself, Judy Ann Morris, Mike Depin, Raji Shunmugavel and Susan McClaran. We discussed topics such as: Map your Neighborhood, Disaster Preparedness and Fire Suppression.

H.B. CERT Executive Board members met on January 15 to discuss the upcoming year's events. One of the topics was to develop a

neighborhood speaker training program for team members who show interest in our CERT Outreach Speaker Program. Our aim is to strengthen the outreach approach to our mission.

It is important to read the activity calendar for upcoming events and to find out how to become more involved in serving your community.

RELAY FOR LIFE

On June 7 – 8, 2014, Huntington Beach's "Relay for Life" will be held in Central Park West. This is the fundraising side of the American Cancer Society.

"Relay for Life" is a 24-hour event because cancer does not sleep. The American Cancer Society fights for those who have heard those words, "you have cancer." If anyone has extra time to work on the committee, we have many positions open. Please contact me, Steph Deagle, at stephh@superiorsigns.com or call 714-393 -2439. Thank you.

Beware of Electronic Cigarettes

By Virginia Petrelis

Many people don't smoke so they never pay attention to a new trend, electronic cigarettes. When I saw a picture of a friend's car that had been burned due to an electric cigarette exploding while being charged, I was horrified!

My curiosity prompted me to search the internet for fires caused by electronic cigarettes. Apparently, it's not that unusual. There are many cases of exploding cigarettes causing car fires. There was one story of a child secured in a car seat when the charging cigarette blew up sending a white hot copper coil that bounced off the ceiling and landed in the child's car seat. The coil burned through the fabric cover and melted the hard plastic sending flames up the little boy's body. He suffered painful first and second degree burns.

For more information, go to the following website to read several accounts of exploding E - cigarettes: <http://consumerist.com/2013/10/03/is-anything-being-done-about-exploding-E-cigarettes>

Smokers beware!

Dr. Lucy Jones' Speech at the American Geophysical Union Meeting in December 2013

On December 9-12, 2013 a group of over 22,000 earth and space scientists, educators, students and other leaders gathered in San Francisco, California. They were at the American Geophysical Union meeting to present ground-breaking research and meet with friends and colleagues.

The keynote speaker and leading earthquake expert was Dr. Lucy Jones, a seismologist at Cal Tech in Pasadena, California. She has been with the US Geological Survey and a Research Associate at the Seismological Laboratory of Caltech since 1983. She is the public voice for earthquake science and safety in California. Dr. Jones issued dire warnings about the expected impact Californians can expect when there are major disruptions to the San Andreas Fault line.

Dr. Lucy Jones' quotes as written by Simon Redfern, San Francisco science writer, and reported by Los Angeles CBSLA.com, are important predictions California needs to heed.

"It is not a question of if the San Andreas Fault ruptures in Southern California, but when. As cities grow and technology evolves, the increasing level of complexity enhances vulnerability to earthquakes." This was her message as she began to outline the dangers Southern Californians face as they wait for the "big one." "Critical infrastructure needs to be kept in place so society can continue working."

Dr. Lucy Jones spoke of the infamous San Francisco earthquake in 1906, when less than one in three US citizens lived in cities. Today the majority of the American population is urban. Much of the current focus on earthquake planning is focused on building regulations. There is a tacit acceptance that 10% of buildings could collapse. In the event of a larger earthquake, some buildings that do not collapse will remain uninhabitable. These buildings may collapse in aftershocks and are given a "red tag." In the Northridge 6.7 magnitude earthquake in 1994, around 230 buildings collapsed, but around 2,300 red tags were issued. Another example is in the San Francisco Marina District in 1989, when for every collapsed building ten others received a red tag.

Southern California damage could be much greater, and could last longer, than most of us ever imagined, "loss of shelter, loss of schools, loss of jobs and emotional hardship. We are risking the ends of our cities," she said during her presentation.

According to a USGA study called the "Shakeout Report," the damages will go far beyond the collapsed buildings and freeways seen in the Northridge earthquake. The San Andreas high-magnitude earthquake will cause multiple problems. For example, Los Angeles area supermarkets now depend on internet systems for warehousing and shipping food to stores, and the food is stored on the other side of the San Andres fault.

"With the development of the Internet and the new just-in-time economy, none of them store food on the Los Angeles side of the San Andreas anymore," Jones said.

Fiber-optics can be cut off when a disastrous San Andreas quake hits.

"Two-thirds of the connectivity from Los Angeles to the rest of the world goes through fiber-optic cables crossing the San Andreas Fault" Jones explained. "So we expect at the time of the earthquake, when the fault moves, it will break these fiber-optic cables and two-thirds of the data capacity between LA and everyone else will disappear," she said.

Natural gas pipelines also cross the San Andreas, so gas for cooking and heating would be in short supply. Water lines carrying water to Southern California cross the fault. The area's water lines, which seem to break with great regularity even without a tremor, are not expected to stand up well when the big earthquake hits.

"The water pipes--remember the first thing you put in a city is the water pipes. That means our water pipes are some of the oldest parts of our infrastructure," Jones said.

Much of the high-tech damage could hinder the recovery efforts and make the job of getting Southern California back on its feet a wrenching process.

The World Wide Web was not around at the time of recent past earthquakes in Southern California. Stop and think how much your personal life and everyone's economic system depends on having cell phone communications and Internet.

The number of people affected by a San Andreas earthquake of a 7.8 magnitude could involve 10 million or more.

Recent News Release from Los Angeles California

By Dakota Smith, Los Angeles Daily News and Rick Orlov, Los Angeles Daily News

Posted: 01/14/14, 5:06 PM PST

In what's being called the first partnership of its kind, U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones will spend the rest of 2014 advising Los Angeles on seismic issues, officials said.

Dr. Jones, a nationally-known and frequently quoted expert on earthquakes, will make recommendations on building retrofitting, water systems and improving fire response plans after earthquakes, officials said.

She will remain full-time with the U.S. Geological Survey while consulting for the city, she told reporters Tuesday morning.

Appearing at a press conference with Mayor Eric Garcetti and other city officials, Dr. Jones said what's at stake is the "viability of this city" and pointed to Los Angeles County's seismic risks.

"We've put 10 million people on top of 100 faults," Jones said.

(continued on page 3)

Recent News Release from Los Angeles California

(continued)

Garcetti cited the billions of dollars lost after the 1994 Northridge earthquake, telling reporters that "too many in our city have stopped thinking about how we can best prepare" for the next quake.

Later in an appearance before the City Council, Jones said the city's infrastructure of buildings, power, water and communications will be at the most risk in a major earthquake.

"Our major need is water," Dr. Jones said. "How long will we be willing to stay here if we can't take a shower? If we don't have water, how do we keep our economy going?"

The Los Angeles City Council also took steps to conduct an inventory of all buildings in the city that could be at the greatest risk in an earthquake as well as look at a potential bond issue to offer low-interest loans to retrofit those buildings most in danger. Among these are soft-sided wood frame buildings, and non-ductile concrete buildings.

The council also asked for a report on what is needed to develop a mobile app for a warning system for when an earthquake hits.

In addition, the council asked for a report on holding regular emergency drills in the city.

The council also saluted a number of city workers who helped develop emergency response programs, including the Community Emergency Response Teams where residents are trained on how to assist police and firefighters in an emergency.

West Virginia Water Contamination

By Virginia Petrelis

At our first CERT meeting on January 9, 2014, our new President, Mike Reyes, gave an interesting presentation on ***The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)***. The GHS is an effort to standardize the labeling of chemicals throughout the world and to include systems through which chemical hazards are identified and communicated to all who are potentially exposed. These groups include workers, consumers, emergency responders and the public.

The day after Mike's presentation, the West Virginia chemical spill into the Elk River which led to a tap water ban for up to 100,000 businesses and residents in nine counties was in the news. 250,000 to 300,000 people were told not to drink, cook, or bathe with the contaminated water and only to use it for flushing or putting out fires. Boiling the water would not remove the chemicals. This led to a run on bottled water. In addition to bottled water, customers stripped the stores of paper plates, cups and bowls. As one person described it, "It was chaos."

"It's just ridiculous," said one customer who was buying one of the last jugs of water at a Wal-Mart store. "There's nowhere to buy water and everywhere seems to be sold

out. This isn't going to last two days." Another Charleston resident considered heading out of town for the weekend. "I'm not sure how long I can last without a shower. This is unbearable," she said. Some people were even buying ice from convenience stores and gas stations to melt for clean water. The National Guard brought in water tankers for distribution and residents lined up with their own containers to fill.

Here in Huntington Beach, perhaps we don't have to worry about a coal mining chemical spill in our water, but imagine if our water supply were cut off due to an earthquake or some other disaster. Do you have an adequate supply of water for several days for your family? Do you have one gallon per person per day? Have you got a 55 gallon water barrel on your property? Do you have containers that you could take to a water distribution center to get water for your family? Those one or five gallon collapsible plastic jugs would be a good thing to have with your emergency supplies.

Be prepared, emergencies can happen anywhere, anytime, even in our beautiful city of Huntington Beach!

9 Volt Battery Safety

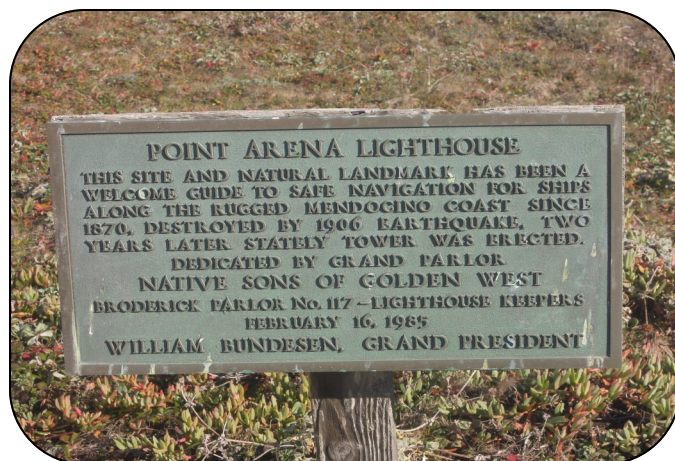
By Virginia Petrelis

Are you aware that nine volt batteries can short out and cause a fire? Even old batteries removed from smoke detectors can touch against another battery or other wire and short. Watch the following youtube video for important information on how to store and dispose of 9 volt batteries: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSJH21WmALc>

Raji and Vel Shunmugavel's Interesting Travels

By Raji Shunmugavel

After my husband Vel retired in 2011, we started traveling around the nation and world. My husband is a civil engineer and has done damage assessment reports for FEMA. After being a CERT volunteer for almost fifteen years, I had a chance to visit these affected areas. I will share my photos of our recent visits. One of the places we visited in 2013 was Point Arena, California.



Continued on page 4

**Raji and Vel Shunmugavel's Interesting Travels
(continued)**



Point Arena Lighthouse

The San Andreas Fault runs out to sea at Point Arena. The Point Arena lighthouse was constructed of brick and mortar in 1870 and was severely damaged in the 1906 earthquake. The lighthouse was condemned and torn down. The new lighthouse was built to withstand any future earthquakes. The new design featured steel reinforcement rods encased in concrete. It was the first lighthouse built in this manner. The new lighthouse began operation in 1908, 18 months after the quake.

In 2011 we traveled to New Orleans and took a tour of the areas affected by the August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina. A monument dedicated to the victims and survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita featured pillars showing the 14 feet flood levels. New homes in the area are now constructed on high pillars as shown in the photo. Visiting a place affected by a disaster after many years shows the consideration given to mitigate the impact of the damages.



CERT Calendar 2014

Thursday, February 13, 2014

Event:: General Meeting, Awards Ceremony, Induction of New Members

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: HB City Council Chambers

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Event:: CERT Command Post Training

Place: Emergency Operation Center (EOC)

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Event:: CERT General Meeting, Tsunami Volunteer Training

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Room B8 HB Civic Center

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Event:: Tsunami Drill

Time: Time to be determined

Place: place to be determined

Saturday, April 5, 2014

Event:: American Red Cross Shelter Class

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Place: Emergency Operation Center (EOC)

TO REGISTER FOR CERT BASIC CLASSES, GO TO:

http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/fire/cert/class_schedule.cfm

See Pages 5 and 6 for Schedule

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2014

Event:: Alternative Cooking in Central Park (CERT members and families)

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Place: HB Central Park, Talbert Meadow

Become a Fire Department Volunteer

Get Your Home and Family Prepared

In most disasters, the victim or bystander is the first to respond. Do you know what to do?

What Is CERT?

CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) is a FEMA endorsed training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, your neighbors and your community in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency response personnel could become overwhelmed and resources will be limited. By becoming CERT trained, you will gain the skills to help emergency responders save lives and property. Once you have completed the training, you have the opportunity to become a Fire Department CERT volunteer.



What Will I Learn?

In the CERT Basic course, you will learn:

- How to prepare your home and family for a disaster
- How to perform basic first aid
- How to safely search a building for trapped victims and rescue them
- How to put out small fires using a fire extinguisher
- How to survive outdoors if you cannot return to your home because it is unsafe



Emergency Management
&
Homeland Security Office
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714-374-1565



What do CERT Volunteers do?

CERT volunteers are trained to prepare for and respond to a disaster until first responders arrive. You will be taught to manage a disaster in your home, work, neighborhood or school. After taking care of your home, family and neighborhood, you will help the city with duties such as, providing damage assessment information, sandbagging, sheltering, helping in the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), and providing support to the Fire Department and Police Department.



Huntington Beach Fire Department

**CLASSES ARE FREE
BUT YOU MUST
REGISTER ONLINE AT**

www.Huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL**

714-374-1565



The CERT Basic Series consists of several modules that will help you prepare for a culminating drill at the end of the course. The modules include the following.

Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness

Learn what threats Huntington Beach residents face, how the City will respond in a disaster, and how you can get your home, family, neighborhood, school and/or business prepared to respond to emergencies.

Disaster First Aid (Medical Ops I & II)

Learn creative first aid solutions to common injuries resulting from an earthquake, or other disasters, and the ABC's of disaster first aid. Additional topics include splints, slings, treating burns, impaled objects and shock. Learn how to triage disaster victims.

Light Search & Rescue/Fire Suppression

Learn how to do a safety size-up, lift 1000+ pounds using simple leverage techniques, properly search for trapped victims, shore up an unsafe structure, and safely move the injured. Learn to use a fire extinguisher and put out a live fire, fire safety and prevention, how to shut off utilities and secure items that may cause injuries in an earthquake.

The Fire Department will be conducting this class series in a different format than previous classes. This is being done to try and improve the quality of the training. You will receive class locations after you register. Class size is limited to 40 students.

Class dates are as follows:

- Wednesday, April 23 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, April 30 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, May 07 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Wednesday, May 14 - 6:30PM to 9:30PM
- Saturday, May 17 - 8:00AM to 4:00PM



Neighbor Helping Neighbor

December 14 CERT Holiday Party



December 14 CERT Holiday Party (cont)



December 14 CERT Holiday Party (cont)



December 14 CERT Holiday Party (cont)



December 14 CERT Holiday Party (cont)



**IT WAS A GREAT PARTY, FUN WAS HAD
BY ALL.**

**HOPE YOU ALL WILL BE ABLE TO
ATTEND NEXT YEAR.**

Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is to provide information and training on disaster preparedness; provide leadership and coordination during an emergency, and assistance to help victims recover from an emergency.

CPR Classes

Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee. Dates are listed below:

- Saturday, February 8 - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, February 19 - 6 PM to 9 PM
- Saturday, March 15 - 10 AM to 1 PM
- Wednesday, March 26 - 6 PM to 9 PM

To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277 or 714-556-4277. Class location is in the HB area and exact location given at time of enrollment.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, February 13, 2014 General Membership Meeting 6:30pm in B8 Civic Center
- Thursday, February 27, 2014 CERT Command Post Training, 6:30 pm TO 8:30pm in EOC
- Thursday, March 13, 2014 General Membership Meeting, Tsunami Volunteer Training 6:30pm in B8 Civic Center
- Thursday, March 27, 2014 Tsunami Drill (location and time to be determined)
- See page 4 for additional items

CERT Database

Fire Department Volunteers (CERT members) have the opportunity to be added to the new CERT database by contacting Peter Petrelis at pgpworks@verizon.net to update their information.

HB CERT Newsletter Staff

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

CERT Website: www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert CERT Contact: CERT@surfcity-hb.org
CERT Message line 714-536-5974, (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)